



KOREA IN KIM JONG UN'S ERA

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PREFACE

Entering the 2010s, Korea still had to endure trials and hardships because of the death of Chairman Kim Jong Il and the ever-increasing political, economical and military pressure imposed by the hostile forces.

However, it has dynamically advanced without frustration and retreat only along the road of socialism it chose itself, braving all hardships, and it is now making leaps and bounds at a maximum speed towards the realization of the people's ideals.

What is behind these leaps and bounds?

What does Korea today under the global eye rely on for its existence and under what banner does it advance and develop?

The Editorial Board publishes the book Korea in Kim Jong Un's Era, hoping it will help those people with such questions.

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1. ENJOYING TRUST OF THE PEOPLE

As a reflection of the unanimous will and ardent aspirations of all the Korean people, on September 28, 2010, at the Third Conference of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Jong Un was elected a member of the Central Committee of the WPK and at the September 2010 Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the WPK, Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the WPK.

This was a historic event that heralded the arrival of a new era of carrying forward the revolutionary cause of Juche in Korea.

Election of Kim Jong Un as Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission and Member of the Central Committee of the WPK provided a firm guarantee for a satisfactory solution to the question of succession to the leadership, the question of carrying forward the revolutionary cause of Juche, that constitutes the fundamental issue decisive of the future of the WPK and the Korean revolution.

On December 17, 2011, the Korean people suffered the greatest loss, the sudden death of Chairman Kim Jong Il whom they followed and trusted as in heaven. The entire nation was immersed in sorrow and the world expressed feelings of condolences.

On December 30, a meeting of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee decided on Kim Jong Un's assumption of the supreme commandship of the armed forces of the DPRK.

This was the behest of Chairman Kim Jong Il and the unanimous desire and will of all the Korean people.

On April 11, 2012, in Pyongyang, the Fourth Conference of the Workers' Party of Korea was held. The conference discussed on electing Chairman Kim Jong Il eternal General Secretary of the WPK and



Kim Jong Un elected as Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission and Member of the Central Committee of the WPK at the Third Conference of the WPK (September 28, 2010)

glorifying for ever his revolutionary career and immortal revolutionary exploits, and accordingly made amendments to the Rules of the Party.

The conference also discussed on placing Kim Jong Un at the top post of the WPK, and elected him First Secretary of the WPK true to the behest of Chairman Kim Jong Il. It announced that the WPK First Secretary Kim Jong Un was elected Member of the PCC Political Bureau, Member of the Presidium of the PCC Political Bureau and Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the Party.

Kim Jong Un's election as the First Secretary of the WPK was an expression of the absolute support to and trust in him of all the Party members and other people and a great political event that clearly demonstrated the invariable faith and will of the people to follow his leadership.

Two days later, on April 13, the Fifth Session of the Twelfth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK was held.

At the meeting, electing Kim Jong Il eternal Chairman of the DPRK National Defence Commission was legitimized and the Socialist Constitution of the DPRK was amended, so that the post of First Chairman of the NDC of the DPRK was newly instituted, and Kim Jong Un was elected to the post.

From May 6 to 9, 2016, the Seventh Congress of the WPK was held in a grandiose way in Pyongyang. It gathered expectations and interest from both the entire Korean nation and the world as it was a Party congress held more than 30 years after the Sixth Congress.

The congress discussed on amending the Rules of the Party, acclaimed Kim Jong Un as Chairman of the WPK in reflection of the unanimous desire and will of the entire Party membership and other people, and elected the central leadership organ of the WPK.

On June 29, in the wake of the congress, the Fourth Session of the 13th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK was held in Pyongyang.

The session discussed on amending the Constitution on replacing the



Kim Jong Un elected as Chairman of the WPK (May 2016)

National Defence Commission with the State Affairs Commission, and the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK was formed with Kim Jong Un as its Chairman.

On April 11, 2019, when the might of the single-hearted unity was further enhanced and the grand march of economic construction was launched dynamically under the banner of self-reliance, the First Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK was held.

At the meeting, Kim Jong Un was reelected Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK.



April 25 House of Culture, the venue of the Seventh Congress of the WPK (May 2016)

2. GUIDING IDEOLOGY AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND LINE

Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism

Kim Jong Un made the most scientific analysis of the whole course of historical development of the Korean revolution pioneered and advanced victoriously under the banner of revolutionary ideology of President Kim Il Sung and General Kim Jong Il and the development process of the Juche idea by energetically conducting ideological and theoretical activities with extraordinary ideological and theoretical wisdom, and, based on it, accomplished the great historic cause of formulating the revolutionary ideology of the President and the General as Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism.

In the first days when he embarked on the road of the revolution, Kim Il Sung followed the genuine road of the revolution by going among the people and fighting by relying on them, discovered the truth that the masses of the people are the masters of the revolution and that one can emerge victorious in the revolution only when one educates the masses and enlists them, and created the Juche idea, the guiding ideology of the revolution.

Kim Jong Il formulated the Juche idea authored by Kim Il Sung as the revolutionary ideology associated with his name, and ensured that it shone its brilliance as the only guiding ideology in the era of independence.

He took great pains to make comprehensive analysis of the limitations of the times revealed by the preceding revolutionary theories, and provided theoretical and historical proof to the fact that only the revolutionary ideology of Kim Il Sung can lead the revolutionary cause in the era of independence.

Well-versed in the Juche idea, the revolutionary ideology of Kim Il Sung from his early years, he made a systematic and historical study of the progressive ideological and theoretical wealth of mankind through energetic ideological and theoretical activities from his days at Kim Il Sung

University to the days when he was busy personally assisting the President in his revolutionary work while working at the Party Central Committee, the General Staff of the Korean revolution. In the course of this he drew a conclusion that the revolutionary ideology of Kim Il Sung is the one that correctly reflects the desires and aspirations of the working masses and the most scientific and encyclopaedic thought that gives the most accurate answers to all the theoretical and practical questions arising in the revolution and construction in the era of independence.

In addition, he confirmed that the revolutionary ideology of Kim Il Sung is a completely new and original one—an integral system of idea, theory and method of Juche—that can be neither discussed nor interpreted within the framework of the preceding revolutionary ideas of the working class, and that thus it is the only guiding ideology in the era of independence, the most perfect revolutionary ideology, that should be associated only with the name of the President.

Thanks to his energetic ideological and theoretical activities, Kim Il Sung's revolutionary ideology was formulated as Kimilsungism, and synthesized and systematized in an all-round way for the first time in history, and its historical position was made clear; Kimilsungism, in which the revolutionary theory and leadership method, whose essence is the Juche idea and which is elucidated by the Juche idea, was evolved and systematized in an organic relationship with one another, is the guiding ideology of the revolution representative of the era of independence.

The Korean people had long regarded that Kim Jong Il's revolutionary ideology is based on Kim Il Sung's both in name and in reality, and both of these ideologies share the same starting point and foundation as well as the system and structure, forming one ideology. They are inseparable from each other, however hard one may try to separate them, and Kim Il Sung's ideology is just Kim Jong Il's and vice versa—this was the unanimous conclusion drawn by the Korean people.

Herein lies the reason why the Korean people, highly praising Kim Jong Il's ideological and theoretical achievements, combined their leaders' ideologies into one ideology calling them Kimilsungism-

Kimjongilism.

However, Kim Jong Il who was boundlessly humble, sternly forbade his name from being associated with Kimilsungism, saying that nothing would be seen other than Kimilsungism, no matter to what extent one delved into Kimjongilism.

In fact, the treasure-house of Kimilsungism that occupies the highest and most brilliant place in the history of human ideology is the wealth and fruition born of the long-standing efforts by Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il. Therefore it was quite natural that this great revolutionary ideology was named after them.

It was not merely the initiative of some people but the pressing demand of the times and the masses of the people.

Kim Jong Un got a profound understanding of the demand of the times and the people and provided a brilliant solution to it.

Formulation of the leader's ideology cannot be decided by a specific individual. It is dependent solely on the genuine successor to the leader, a great person who embodies the aspirations and demands of the times, the revolution and the masses and who possesses the most sublime loyalty to the leader and perfect mastery of the leader's revolutionary ideology.

On April 6, 2012, Kim Jong Un formulated the revolutionary ideology of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il as Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism in his historic work, *Let Us Brilliantly Accomplish the Revolutionary Cause of Juche, Holding Comrade Kim Jong Il in High Esteem as the Eternal General Secretary of Our Party*.

In the speech he made clear that Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is an integral system of idea, theory and method of Juche and a great revolutionary ideology representative of the era of Juche.

Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism formulated by him is, in essence, the people-first principle and a perfect guiding ideology, theory and method of the revolution.

The revolutionary essence of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is the people-first principle.

Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism, which fully reflects the demands of

the times when the position and role of the masses of the people, masters of history, were raised to a high level, is evolved with the people at the centre and their role as the main thing in its principles and contents as a whole.

That is why Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is the most reasonable, universal and valid ideology of the times, which anyone who is a member of the masses can readily empathize with and accept as their own, and it is applied with brilliance to the reality of the people-centred socialism of the Korean style, demonstrating its validity and vitality to the full.

In Korea today, a dynamic campaign is under way to fully apply the people-first principle to reality in keeping with the new requirements of the developing revolution.

As regards its structure and contents, Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is an integrated system comprising the Juche idea created by Kim Il Sung and developed in depth by Kim Jong Il, and the theories and methods of the revolution and construction elucidated by this idea.

It scientifically explains the true features of society where the independence of the people has been fully realized, the law-governed process of its construction, and the strategy, policies and leadership methods that should strictly be adhered to in the whole course of carrying out the socialist cause.

This brings into further relief the fact that Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism is the perfect ideology comprising an integrated system of idea, theory and method of Juche and proves again that it is the guiding ideology, theory and method for the revolution that should be adhered to not only in the current times but also in the distant future of the society.

Consequently, Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism that occupies the highest and brightest place in the history of human ideology serves as an ideological and theoretical weapon that powerfully encourages and propels the Korean people in their struggle for ultimate victory in the revolutionary cause of Juche, and shines as an impeccable revolutionary ideology and theory of the current times that illumine the road of the people's struggle for independence and socialism today.



Political Philosophy

Today the world's people cast a doubtful eye at the DPRK which is advancing dynamically forward along the road it chose without a moment's hesitation or detour under the international situation, in which justice is criminalized according to the interests of the world powers.

What enables that country with a small territory and population to advance in high spirit towards final victory, demonstrating the proud dignity of the nation?

The Korean people's answer to the question is short. The only answer from any of them is that an outstanding statesman possessed of the spirit of independence is their very dignity and life.

The spirit of independence is the one that finds its expression in one's faith and will to live as one desires and demands free from any restriction, and thus it is a spiritual factor that determines the dignity and value of man and guarantees the prestige of one's country and nation. Therefore, it greatly influences the shaping of not only one's destiny but also the destiny of one's country and nation, and poses as one of the most important things in administering politics.

The spirit of independence is more important for the statesmen who are leading their countries and nations.

A politician strong in the spirit of independence steers the destiny of his or her country and nation successfully in pursuit of the independent lines and policies, refraining from being subjugated by or dependent on others however adverse the conditions and circumstances may be. By contrast, a politician who lacks the spirit of independence brings only humiliation to his or her country by pursuing the policy of moving under the baton of others or blindly following them, turning first to others for help whatever question the country faces may be.

The reality of many countries of the world is that their peoples are being

forced into a miserable plight as they have not the spirit of self-determination and the principle of independence although they have their own states.

This indicates that the height of the independent spirit of politicians is decisive of the destiny and future of each country and nation as well as individuals.

After all, the spirit of independence is the lifeblood for a politician who leads the struggle of the people for the realization of independence.

The spirit of independence Korea maintains demands that all the problems arising in hewing out the destiny of the country and nation be resolved in full conformity with its people's requirements for and interest in independence as suited to the actual circumstances of the country and by relying on their efforts.

No love is greater than the one of giving priority to and defending the independent dignity of the people, and the devotion for it is most moving.

Kim Jong Un's political motto is independence.

He said:

“We should continue to defend and demonstrate the dignity and honour of Kim Il Sung's nation and Kim Jong Il's Korea by steadfastly carrying forward the principle of independence which Comrades Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il maintained throughout their life, which they regarded as their guiding principles.”

That independence in politics is the way to victory and the way to bringing happiness to the people is the truth proven by the practice of the Korean revolution.

Independence is the beacon light of destiny that awakens man to know himself, the great dynamic that brings about the storm of the revolution and a byname of creation and transformation that gives birth to a powerful nation and a great people.

The spiritual mainstay that independence is the lifeblood for not only a man, a social being, but also a country and nation occupies its conspicuous place in the 100-year history of Kim Il Sung's and Kim Jong Il's Korea that has risen from a weak, colonial country to a world-class political and

military power, holding aloft the torch of independence. The ideology and leadership of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, who maintained that for a small country, a small nation, it is more important to regard the spirit of independence as its lifeline and the realization of its sovereignty as the foremost strategy for its development, wrought a miracle in modern Korea.

Independence is the nameplate of Korea that runs through the whole course of its revolution which has made steady advance along the road of victory, tiding over manifold trials and hardships.

To maintain independence is easier said than done. On the Korean peninsula, which, from a geopolitical point of view, is surrounded by big powers and where the interests clashed between the maritime forces and continental forces, the deep-ingrained sycophancy and dogmatism had long been regarded as the creed for survival, constituting an obstacle to the advent of the spirit of independence.

However, sycophancy and dogmatism that haunted this land so tenaciously was removed completely by Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, masters of the politics of independence.

In retrospect, their indomitable faith and will enabled the Korean revolution to gain only victory and glory at every step free from any failure, setbacks and vacillation in all fields of the revolution and construction, consistently holding aloft the banner of independence amidst the grave tempest of history.

Independence is immediately Kim Jong Un as well as Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il.

What we should take among the myriad of roads on this vast planet is the road of Juche and to this end we should maintain the principle of independence and conduct the revolution and construction in our own way, no matter what others may say and which way they may take—this is the unshakable spirit of independence Kim Jong Un cherishes as his steadfast faith and mettle.

Whereas a man's faith and mettle is confined to his own destiny and future, a leader's faith and mettle is decisive of the rise and fall and advance

and setback of his country.

The philosophy of the leader of the revolution who has shouldered the responsibility for the destiny of the masses of the people is to defend the independent dignity of his people, which requires his indomitable faith and mettle that no one can rival.

It is difficult to take the road of independence idealized and desired by humanity. It requires a steadfast independent faith and great fortitude capable of foiling all manner of challenges and obstructive moves. The failure of many countries on the globe to break with sycophancy and subjugation is ascribable to the lack of faith and courage that guarantees the principle of independence.

Testimony to it is given in recent years by instances of several countries that found themselves in a quagmire, after going this or that way, without political independence.

Landmark events that forcefully demonstrated the dignity and might of Kim Il Sung's nation, Kim Jong Il's Korea, including the successful launch of Kwangmyongsong-4, an earth observation satellite, that took off into outer space to the admiration of the world are a clear testimony to the height of the iron faith and courage cherished by Kim Jong Un.

Frightened by the successful launch of Kwangmyongsong 3-2 in December 2012, the hostile forces railroaded the UN Security Council into adopting a resolution that contains cruel hostile measures to outlaw the peaceful satellite launch by Korea and thwart the overall socialist construction in that country.

The ensuing "sanctions" were clearly an infringement upon the sovereignty of the country and a grave encroachment upon its people's rights to existence and development.

As the satellite launch is a justifiable independent right of Korea and the exercise of its lawful sovereignty recognized by international law, there can be no excuse or reason for others to intervene in it.

On February 7, 2016, the Korean space scientists and technicians brought about such an epoch-making event as the successful launch of Kwangmyongsong-4.

Korea leapt from a young space developer to a space power. Its launch of an earth observation satellite following only several rounds of satellite test launch and its rapid development from launching a gradient orbit satellite to launching a polar orbit satellite are a track of successive leaps of the Korean style and at the same time a clear demonstration of the spirit of the independence and the creative efforts of the Korean nation.

Though the path is fraught with manifold trials and hardships and much danger, the glory one greets at the summit after following it with an independent faith and mettle is so much splendid.

Kim Jong Un's iron faith and mettle are based on the people-first principle.

For a leader leading the masses of the people, the love for and trust in the people constitutes a foundation for the administration of the independent politics.

To live and develop in an independent way without tolerating any restriction is the intrinsic requirement and aspirations of man, and it is the people who lay down even their lives for its realization. That is why only a politician with boundless love for and absolute trust in his people can administer independent politics for the country and the people and exercise sovereignty and equal rights with dignity in the international relations.

Kim Jong Un once said that the invincible might of Korea as a politico-ideological power is clearly manifested in exalting the highest level of brilliance of its national sovereignty and dignity it has achieved by means of independent politics that embodies the Juche idea.

The present is the era when a do-or-die struggle to decide who prevails over whom is being waged between the independent forces and dominationist forces and between progressives and reactionaries. The struggle of the masses for independence and socialism has advanced amid the cut-throat showdown with all kinds of reactionaries, but there was no such an acute confrontation as that of today.

In the world today independence means military strength, and a decision for the country's sovereignty and dignity should be made with the help of

arms, not words. A request for sovereignty and dignity without the backing of strength is no less than a pitiful appeal or a complaint. Without powerful military strength no country can defend its sovereignty and dignity and achieve the independent development and prosperity of the nation in the current complicated international situation.

A foreign political critic commented: The immense influence that Korea, a small country in terms of both its territory and population, has on the world politics is inconceivable with the common knowledge. In this sense, Korea can be said for sure to be a centre of the world politics.

A centre of the world politics—this concept is never defined by the number of population or the size of territory. Although the geopolitical position of Korea remains unchanged, there has been a dramatic change in its status, a fundamental change from a weak colony to a world-class political and military power.

As a result, the attitude of the Korean people towards the world has grown bolder, and the world cast a mysterious eye at Korea.

The more the hostile forces have intensified their moves to bring the Korean people to their knees by stifling them by all means out of the deep-ingrained feeling of hatred against Korea, the stronger Korea's spirit of independence has become, and the fuller the disposition and mettle of Juche Korea that it will do what it is determined to do has been displayed.

Thanks to the politics of independence, the DPRK's comprehensive national strength and strategic position have reached the highest level possible, and a landmark event took place in which the international political structure has undergone a fundamental change.

The world media is competitively introducing the DPRK's amazing reality, reporting that the country has undergone a complete facelift and its strategic position has reached a new level in several years under Kim Jong Un's guidance.

The DPRK, which is unwaveringly pursuing the politics of independence even in the turmoil of the rapidly-changing world politics in the present age, is a shining example for the progressive countries of the world aspiring after

independence, but a merciless sledgehammer to the hostile forces, frustrating their dominationist ambition step by step.

It is quite reasonable that foreigners find it difficult to understand the unfathomable strength and genuine appearance of Juche Korea because they are not well aware of the essence of its politics. However, if they realize that the pillar firmly supporting the country's tremendous national strength, the lever pushing it up to the climax of dignity, is the politics of independence, such a mystery will easily be solved.

Political Line

At the historic March 2013 Plenary Meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Jong Un put forward a new strategic line for the victorious advance of the Korean revolution.

He said that the prevailing situation and the requirement of the developing Korean revolution prompted the WPK Central Committee to put forward the strategic line of simultaneously conducting economic construction and building up the nuclear forces.

This line is a revolutionary strategic line, original political line, set forth by his decision to put an end to the ever-growing nuclear threat by the hostile forces by further reinforcing the nation's nuclear capability and promote more dynamically the building of a powerful socialist country by giving fresh impetus to economic construction.

The setting forth of this line was a declaration that signaled that socialist Korea dignified with independence and guaranteed by mighty nuclear deterrent commenced on a full scale the struggle to expedite the victorious advance for building a thriving socialist nation.

The courage and mettle of a statesman are supported by a belief in his ability to administer politics.

The absolute strength supporting politics comes from the people's absolute support for and trust in the leader and his politics. But, the foremost

thing is his belief in his people. A leader's courage and mettle supported by money, wealth and military and technical supremacy have limits, but those guaranteed by the people's absolute trust and support display an absolute and the greatest might.

Since the leader and the people have formed a harmonious whole and made headway against all the raging winds of history while the former absolutely believed in his people and the latter entirely entrusted their destiny to the former, socialism of Korea could adorn the road only with glory and victory.

Kim Jong Un once said that he conveys his noble respects to the heroic Korean people who, despite the difficult living conditions caused by life-threatening sanctions and blockades, firmly trusted, absolutely supported and dynamically implemented the Party's line of simultaneously promoting the two fronts.

No force is greater than that of the people upholding the guidance of their leader with one mind and one will.

If there is an absolute weapon in this world, it is by no means the nukes but the single-hearted devotion of the people who are desirous of displaying their independent dignity on the road of defending the leader and leading a proud and dignified life to the envy of the whole world, even though they live in difficult circumstances tightening their belts, and the single-hearted unity of the leader and people.

People are the most powerful, most honest and most dignified. Therefore, the political line put forward by a statesman who enjoys the absolute support and trust from the people is the most powerful.

The source of all victories of the Korean socialism is not any mysterious divine power but the strength of the people who resembled their leader in courage and mettle.

In less than five years, which can be called a moment in history, since the new line of promoting the two fronts simultaneously was set forth, the Korean people wrought an epoch-making miracle of achieving the great historic cause, firmly rallied around Kim Jong Un.

The road was indeed full of the adversity, blood and tears, and painstaking efforts.

Witnessed in this arduous journey of promoting the two fronts simultaneously were Kim Jong Un's warm love of his people, noble sense of responsibility for the destiny of his country and people and indomitable faith and will to demonstrate the dignity and prestige of his country and nation in front of the eyes of the world and the single-hearted determination of the people, fascinated by his greatness, to follow him even if they may die and to implement his plans and intentions at the risk of their lives even if they may fall.

Thus, the great victory of the WPK's line of simultaneously conducting economic construction and the building up the nuclear forces could be proudly declared at the significant April 2018 Plenary Meeting of the WPK Central Committee.

Thanks to the new line, the Korean people built many modern factories, enterprises, schools, hospitals, houses and cultural recreation centres, dashing ahead at the Mallima speed.

In addition, a new current towards détente and peace was formed on the Korean peninsula and in the region and dramatic changes are taking place in the international political structure by Korea's positive actions and efforts.

On April 20, 2018, at the historic Third Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the WPK Kim Jong Un proudly declared the great victory of the line of promoting the two fronts simultaneously and set forth a new strategic line of concentrating all efforts on socialist economic construction.

He said that a revolutionary general offensive should be launched to achieve fresh victory on all fronts of building a powerful socialist country by taking the historic victory in the building of the DPRK's nuclear forces as the springboard for renewed progress.

The April 2018 Plenary Meeting set the target of a higher stage for socialist construction and injected fresh vitality into the revolutionary general offensive for bringing the people's independent ideals and happiness

into bloom. Herein lies its great significance and the reason why the new strategic line constitutes the most correct revolutionary line.

It is a law that the line and policy which are filled with love for the people and enjoy their support emerge victorious. As the line of promoting the two fronts simultaneously which enjoyed absolute support from the people was perfectly implemented in the short period of less than five years and its brilliant victory declared, so will be the new strategic line of concentrating all efforts on economic construction—this is the faith and will cherished by the Korean people and the future look of Juche Korea that the world will witness.

The new strategic line is a scientific and revolutionary line based on the wisdom and creative abilities of the people who burn their hearts with patriotism, the absolute trust in and love for a large contingent of scientists and technicians who have cherished the faith that even though there is no boundary in science, they have their socialist motherland, and the conviction in the foundations of the independent economy.

It is also realistic as it set the targets by stage and ways for their realization.

The major idea of this line is to consolidate the country's economic foundations and revitalize its economy. Based on this, the WPK clarified in detail the immediate and long-term objectives for its realization.

The immediate objective is to put production at all factories and enterprises on a regular footing and bring about a rich harvest in all fields under cultivation during the period of hitting the targets of the five-year strategy for national economic development, thus making the people's happy laughter resound across the country. In other words, it is to reenergize the national economy as a whole and put it on an upward track.

The long-term objective is to make the national economy Juche-oriented, modern, IT-based and scientific at a high level and provide all the people with affluent and civilized life. In other words, it aims at building an independent and modern socialist economy, a knowledge-based economy.

The new strategic line enjoys the absolute support from the Korean people.

3. CREATION AND CHANGE

In less than ten years the Korean people have achieved powerful national defence capability, set up many monumental creations and brought about changes on all fronts of building a powerful socialist country.

The Korean people look back on the course of gigantic creation and transformation with deep and fresh emotion.

In 2012 the country conducted the work of building up the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun to give it a more solemn appearance, as befitting the supreme sanctuary of Juche.

The Kumsusan Palace of the Sun is a grand monument of immortalizing President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il, built by the Koreans' pure loyalty and noble sense of moral obligation to their leaders. Thanks to their earnest desire and devoted efforts, the palace rose as a masterpiece of the times with wonderful appearance as befits the sanctuary of the Sun, which hands down to posterity the greatness, glorious revolutionary careers and



Kumsusan Palace of the Sun

immortal revolutionary exploits of the great leaders.

In April 2012 the People's Theatre was built on Mansu Hill, boasting of its unique architectural style. The six-floor theatre perfect in formative and artistic representation covers a building lot of over 11 500m² with a total floor space of over 50 000m². The theatre, with a 1 500-seat natural acoustic auditorium, is wonderfully furnished with all conditions needed for creative and performing artists and audience including the latest stage sets, practice rooms, makeup rooms and welfare service facilities.

In particular the 1 500-seat natural acoustic auditorium ensures more satisfactorily the emotional rapport between entertainers and spectators as the seats are placed in blocks before and behind the stage and on its both sides so that the spectators can enjoy the performance from different angles. With the construction of the theatre that meets the people's aesthetic sense and the architectural demands, the people have become able to lead a cultured life as genuine creators and enjoyers of socialist culture. The theatre was inaugurated on the occasion of the centenary of the birth of President Kim Il Sung. This theatre conveys an episode that those who took the seat,



Changjon Street and People's Theatre

which Kim Jong Un had once taken to see an artistic performance with ordinary working people, keep the ticket as a memento.

In June 2012 Changjon Street, another new street, was built.

The street with high-rise apartment houses and welfare service facilities runs along the bank of the Taedong from Mansu Hill where the statues of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il stand. Provided with formative and artistic beauty on a high level, it is built like a park. The Korean people waged a dynamic offensive campaign to build in the Mansudae area this street, which is perfect with all the elements of architecture and street formation only in one year, thus creating a new Pyongyang speed, a miraculous achievement unprecedented in the history of construction.

In 2012, Korea built such monumental edifices as the Mansugyo Meat



Rungna People's Recreation Ground



People's Open-Air Ice Rink and Roller Rink



Ryugyong Health Complex



Thongilgori Fitness Centre

and Fish Shop, Rungna People's Recreation Ground, Thongilgori Fitness Centre, Ryugyong Health Complex, People's Open-Air Ice Rink, Roller Rink, Breast Tumour Institute of the Pyongyang Maternity Hospital, and renovated the Mangyongdae and Taesongsan amusement parks as required by the times.

On July 27, 2013, the inaugural ceremony of the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum was held in a grandiose way. The construction of the museum on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the victory in the Korean war fully demonstrated the unshakable faith and will of the Korean people to achieve only victory for ever following the leadership of Kim Jong Un by carrying forward the ever-victorious tradition of the Korean revolution provided and glorified by Generalissimos Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il. The museum with the main hall, exhibition halls, large-scale panoramas, exhibits and other spaces is a lasting treasure house that exalts the brilliance of the victorious war exploits and Songun revolutionary



Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum

exploits of the Generalissimos, a palace that conveys the heroic fighting spirit and feats of the Korean army and people and a centre of education for implanting in the people the firm will to consistently inherit the ever-victorious history.

It is also grand open-air museum with open-air exhibition areas like the one of weapons of merit around the statue of the main theme *Victory*, bearing Kim Jong Un's autographic writing that reads *Honour to the Great Years*.

The Munsu Water Park was inaugurated on October 15, 2013. The large-scale comprehensive water park built on the picturesque bank of the Taedong is a cultural recreation centre, covering a vast area of 109 000m² and furnished with all conditions necessary for service in all seasons including outdoor pools and indoor pools with various kinds of slides and water tanks and an indoor gymnasium. The soldier-builders pushed ahead with the construction work and assembly of various kinds of facilities in a three-dimensional way, thus completing the grand project in only nine months.

The water park shows the world the level of civilization the WPK is going to provide the people.

The opening ceremony of the Masikryong Ski Resort was held on December 31, 2013.

All the elements of the resort, ranging from the natural and ecological environment to the finishing decoration of buildings, are laid out in keeping with the requirements of the times to break through the cutting edge of civilization and architecture in realizing the people's aspirations and aesthetic sentiments.

Its construction was accompanied by manifold difficulties; the soldier-builders had to overcome the oceanic climate of the east coastal area with the maximum annual precipitation in Korea and the unfavourable conditions of the high mountainous area. However, encouraged by the leadership of Kim Jong Un, who guided the project to build the resort as a model of the times and to the level of future civilization by giving on-site guidance to the construction site on several occasions, the service

Munsu Water Park



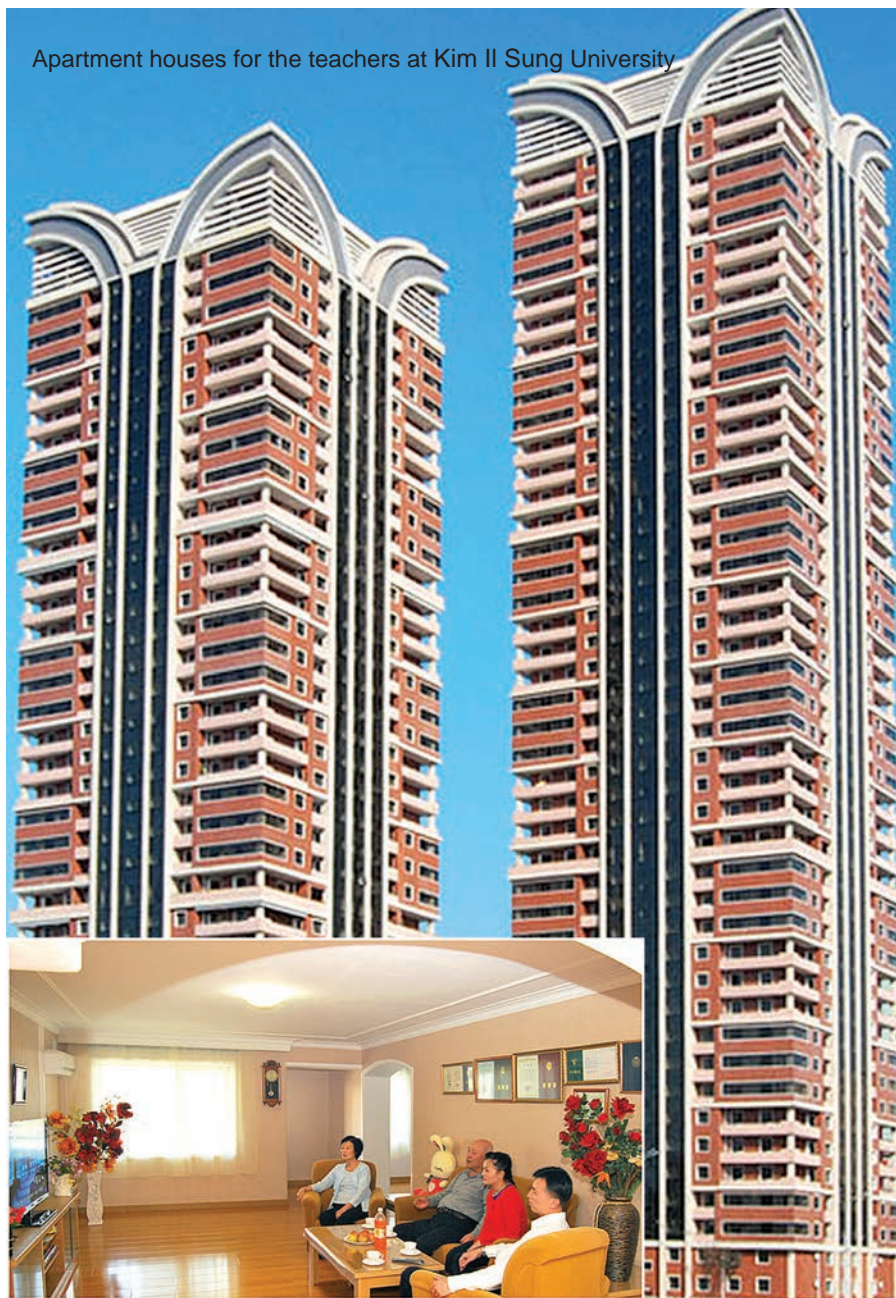


Masikryong Ski Resort



Mirim Riding Club

Apartment houses for the teachers at Kim Il Sung University





Ryugyong Dental Hospital



Unha Scientists Street

personnel who were entrusted with the gigantic project as a whole created the Masikryong speed, thus completing the project in a short period of time.

Besides these, in 2013 the Korean people built the Mirim Riding Club, Unha Scientists Street and apartment houses for the lecturers of Kim Il Sung University, through which they demonstrated the level of civilization they aspire after and the WPK's view of the people. The Okryu Children's Hospital and Ryugyong Dental Hospital were built, adorning one page of the history of public health service in the country; and with the inauguration of the Fatherland Liberation War Martyrs Cemetery, the heroic feats performed by the fallen soldiers of the Korean People's Army came to shine for ever. The Central Mushroom Institute of the State Academy of Sciences and many other edifices were built, and the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium was renovated in keeping with the requirements of the times.

On May 2, 2014, the ceremony of unveiling the statues of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il set up at the Songdowon International Children's Camp and the inauguration ceremony of the camp were held in the presence of Kim Jong Un.

The statues portray Kim Il Sung sending an affectionate smile to the children of Korea and from different countries of the world while sitting on a bench at the camp park situated on the seashore with sweet briars in full bloom and Kim Jong Il embracing the children in his arms. In the camp built in the shape of a sailing boat in pine groves on the seashore where the blue water of the East Sea hit the white beach, there are two blocks furnished with bedrooms, dining halls, kitchens and welfare service facilities laid out to suit the children's psychology. It also has the International Friendship Children's Hall furnished with the latest cinema projectors and acoustic facilities, mountain-hiking knowledge learning space, electronic recreation hall, library, international friendship room, Children's Union room, fine art room, skills exhibition room, 4D simulation cinema, aquarium, aviary, maritime knowledge learning space, and practice room where children can cook various kinds of dishes with their own hands.

Songdowon International Children's Camp







Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp



Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage

Outside the camp are a playground furnished with tracks and covered with artificial turf, gym, swimming gym, wading pool, spectators' seats with blue wave-shaped shades and archery field. The camp, which can be called a palace and hotel for schoolchildren, looks like a fine art work.

That day, after the unveiling and inauguration ceremonies were over, the finals of the National Football Games of Children were held in the outdoor playground built in harmony with the natural landscape of Songdowon, a scenic spot on the east coast, and the celebration performance *We Are the Happiest in the World* was given by the then Moranbong Band in the International Friendship Children's Hall in the presence of Kim Jong Un. Following the performance, fireworks were set off, marking the climax of the sports and cultural events in celebration of the camp's opening.

On October 24, 2014, the Yonphung Scientists Holiday Camp was inaugurated.

The holiday camp built in a little over four months on the shore of picturesque Lake Yonphung is a "golden cushion" the WPK arranged for scientists. This monumental edifice visually and eloquently shows the looks of Korea which advances and becomes civilized day by day.

On October 27, 2014, the Pyongyang Baby Home and Orphanage, a cradle, palace and a place of education and edification for orphans, furnished with all living conditions, were inaugurated.

2014 also witnessed the Wisong Scientists Residential District and the workers' dormitory at the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Textile Mill built as models of the times, light industry factories for the betterment of the people's standard of living like the Kalma Foodstuff Factory built and the May Day Stadium and many other structures renovated in keeping with the demand of the times.

In late January 2015 the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory was wonderfully renovated as required by the new century.

While providing field guidance at the factory in July the previous year, Kim Jong Un set the task of renovating it, saying that only when the working conditions and living environment were provided on the



Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory

highest level can the quantity and quality of leather shoes be improved decisively.

The builders finished the renovation project in a little more than five months; the production buildings for the injection-moulding workteam, uppers workshop and shoemaking workshop underwent a complete

facelift, and the cultural and welfare facilities like the hall of culture, barber's, beauty parlor, bathhouse, canteen and dormitory were built; the outdoor sports facilities and the resting area were arranged, and the sci-tech learning space was furnished wonderfully so that its employees could receive online education; in addition, by making its business activities IT-based and modernizing production lines on a high level, the factory secured a sure guarantee for increasing production and raising the quality of its products while saving labour, materials and production costs.

Today the *Maebongsan*-brand shoes produced by the factory that satisfy the tastes, sense of beauty, physical constitution and features by age and psychology of buyers are recognized as famous products in Korea.

On June 30, 2015, the Jangchon Vegetable Cooperative Farm in Sadong District, Pyongyang, which was reconstructed as a model farm in building a civilized socialist rural community, held the inauguration



Jangchon Vegetable Cooperative Farm in Sadong District

ceremony of greenhouses, houses and public buildings, and the farmers moved into new houses.

Its farmers and the working people of Pyongyang completely renewed the appearance of the farm in less than a year as required by the new century by vigorously launching the drive to create a new Pyongyang spirit and Pyongyang speed. The farm built vegetable greenhouses of tens of hectares, thus laying a solid foundation for increasing vegetable production. They also built the hall of culture to be no less inferior to a central art theatre for the farmers to enjoy cultural activities to their heart's content, and also built a park and recreation ground furnished with a volleyball court, a swimming pool, a roller rink and fish ponds. The Jangchon Health Complex, a comprehensive public welfare service base, has all sorts of facilities including bathrooms, barber's, beauty parlour, wading pool, tailor's, shoe repair, photo studio and snack bar. In the sci-tech learning space there are a library, e-library and room for studying technology, and the rooms for soil analysis and inspection of harmful insects are equipped with modern facilities. The new houses are all furnished with solar water heaters and solar panels, biogas supply system; they are surrounded by fruit trees; and the roads between them are paved with blue stones. A cosy and fine hospital was also built.

The inauguration ceremony of the Mirae Scientists Street, which was built as a monumental creature of the times, was held on November 3, 2015, demonstrating the idea of prioritizing science and talents and the might of socialist Korea.

The street was built in one year for the educators and scientists.

Found on the street running along the Taedong riverside are high-rise and superhigh-rise apartment houses with thousands of flats; such public buildings as the Changgwang Shop, nurseries, kindergartens and schools, commercial, public catering and welfare service networks; relaxation area, and sports parks. The exterior of the apartment houses are covered with tiles of various colours, and their roofs are of new, unique forms. All the architectural structures are on a high artistic level; the

53-storey apartment house with a symbolic tower on its roof looks twisted in the shape of an electron orbit so that one can notice the street at a single glance from afar. Executed perfectly, each flat has a drawing room, rooms for parents, for the host and hostess and for children and kitchen equipped with quality furniture and fixtures.

Russian newspaper *Rossiskaya Gazeta* wrote: Photos of Mirae Scientists Street on the Internet surfed by billions of people have become a hit; the street with unique buildings of shapes of the future is a new street of peculiar style in Pyongyang in the times when civilization is further efflorescing; the capital city of the DPRK is changing its looks with such structures; the Western mass media ignore all these wonderful things of the DPRK and continue to hatch false propaganda against the country; seeing is believing, so if people of the capitalist countries see and know how the Korean people live, their governments will be overthrown the following day.

The chief of a Brazilian newspaper, putting tens of photographs of Mirae Scientists Street, the Sci-Tech Complex and the Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace on the website, asked, "Which city do you think has these buildings?" Thousands replied that those were in Hong Kong, Shanghai or Macao in China. No one answered those were in the DPRK. When he explained that the buildings had been constructed in Pyongyang, the capital of the DPRK, in recent years, all the netizens expressed their amazement and admiration, writing, "This is beyond imagination," and "Those are too wonderful to believe."

In 2015 the DPRK also built a terminal of the Pyongyang International Airport, the Kalma Airport, baby home and orphanage in Wonsan, the Pyongyang Old People's Home, such monumental structures of the times as Units 1 and 2 of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station and the multi-tiered Chongchongang Power Station. Moreover, light-industry factories and welfare service facilities like the Ryugyong Mushroom Farm, Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory, Pyongyang Corn-Processing Factory, Pyongyang Catfish Farm and floating restaurant *Mujigae* were

Mirae Scientists Street





Terminal of Pyongyang International Airport



Floating restaurant *Mujigae*



Sci-Tech Complex

built or renovated, and educational bases including the Sinchon Museum and Mangyongdae Schoolchildren's Palace were renovated as required by the times.

The Sci-Tech Complex was inaugurated on January 1, 2016 in the presence of Kim Jong Un.

The complex is a monumental creation, which perfectly reflects the Workers' Party of Korea's policy of making all the people well versed in science and technology, an acme and symbol of architectural art of Korea that is developing day by day, and a base for diffusing advanced science and technology for all the people in the 21st century, an era of the knowledge-based economy. Shaped in the form of a giant atom, symbolic

of the world of science, it is a masterpiece and national treasure peculiar in architectural structure and perfect in formative and artistic aspects. The inside equipped with the heating system by geothermal energy, natural illumination that makes most of the sunlight and modern sewage treatment system imparts the importance and significance of development and use of natural energy in the interior atmosphere. It is a multifunctional structure with 10 indoor and outdoor exhibition halls. Displayed in the atrium is a model of the carrier rocket of earth satellite. On the floors around this atrium are sector-specific exhibition halls like e-libraries, children's dream hall, halls of history of development of science and technology, cutting-edge science and technology, basic sciences, applied science and technology, scientific exploration, etc, equipped with operational, sensational and workable exhibits, as well as reading areas. It has also a reading room for persons with disabilities, video room, online lecture rooms, cinema that exclusively shows scientific films, question-and-answer rooms and conference halls. This information exchange hub provides real-time service through the national network to all the families as well as scientific research and educational institutions, factories and enterprises, enabling them to exchange the necessary scientific and technological materials each other. People from all walks of life and even children taken by their parents and the foreigners come to it and their number is increasing day after day, the average being over 5 000 or even 10 000 a day.

In the end of August 2016 rain poured in torrents for two days without a break in the northern part of Korea. With the Tuman River overflowing their banks, the countless streams flew rapidly, causing massive landslides. The flooding, the worst-ever since the weather observation after the liberation of the country, struck six cities and counties in the northern part causing immeasurable disaster. Many houses were levelled down, and the traffic, electric-supply and communication networks, factories, enterprises and farmland were severely damaged or flooded. The area turned into ruin as if it had experienced a war. To cope with the prevailing state of emergency, the Workers' Party of Korea adopted an appeal to all the Party



Part of the flood-stricken areas in North Hamgyong Province

Rehabilitated flood-stricken areas in North Hamgyong Province



members, service personnel and other people. The appeal, stressing that there was no emergency greater than the people's pain and no revolutionary work more important than the work of alleviating their misfortune, called upon them to remove the aftermath of the disaster in the shortest time and create a miracle of turning misfortune into blessing through general mobilization and concentration of all human, material and technical potentials of the state to the rehabilitation of the northern area. The Party changed the main thrust of the 200-day campaign (a campaign for increased production from June 1 to December 15, 2016) to efforts for the rehabilitation project, and dispatched the main force deployed in the main areas including the construction site of Ryomyong Street to the project. Construction of houses was set as the primary target so that the flood victims would not suffer from the impending severe cold, and revolutionary measures were taken to this end. Upon receiving the order, the main construction force including the People's Army units and the shock-brigades for the construction of Ryomyong Street, which made a forced march to



Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital

take their places, the shock-brigades from cities and counties of North Hamgyong Province and the people in the flood-stricken area worked day and night, displaying the traditional trait of supporting the army and aiding the people, thus building ideal villages, symbolic of socialist civilization. The ceremonies of moving into new houses were held on November 19 and 20, respectively.

In 2016 the Central Zoo was renovated and the Natural History Museum built for the people's cultural and emotional life, and the bases conducive to the promotion of people's health, including the Medical Oxygen Factory and Ryugyong General Ophthalmic Hospital, and monumental structures of the times, including Unit 3 of the Paektusan Hero Youth Power Station, were built. Moreover, many light-industry factories for the improvement of the people's livelihood such as the Ryongaksan Soap Factory, Mindulle Notebook Factory, Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory and Pyongyang Terrapin Farm and Mangyongdae Children's Camp were built or renovated.



Interior of the Natural History Museum



Exhibition room of the Pyongyang Bag Factory

In January 2017 the Pyongyang Bag Factory was built on Thongil Street, Pyongyang, and started operation.

With a total floor space of 10 590m², it is capable of producing more than 242 000 school bags and 60 000 other bags. Furnished with equipment which were made by domestic efforts and technology, including laser cutters, in all production lines, ranging from designing, sewing, printing, dying and finishing, it turns out bags of various forms and colours as suited to the children's and students' hobbies, liking and tastes with locally-produced materials. It has technical preparation and designing rooms, and established an integrated production system for efficient production organization and business management. By conducting the assembly of equipment and technical learning simultaneously with construction, the officials and workers of the factory started production at the same time as the completion of the construction project. So far the country has built a bag factory in every province with the one in Pyongyang as a model.

In the same month the Ryugyong Kimchi Factory was inaugurated, bringing pleasure to the people.

Kimchi is one of the Korean traditional dishes which have been

favoured by the Korean people from olden times. A Korean saying goes that the trees live on water and people live on kimchi. Kimchi is indispensable to the Korean people in their diet. A kimchi institute was organized long ago, and industrialization of kimchi production has been carried out.

The Ryugyong Kimchi Factory produces kimchi, one of the five health foods in the world, in an industrial way. Its integrated production system, unlike those of other light-industry factories, controls products' quality based on the people's opinion.

The equipment, automated and robot-controlled on a high level, were designed by the Korean scientists and technicians and built and installed by the factory workers. The germ-free and dust-free production lines guarantee sanitation on a high level.



Ryugyong Kimchi Factory

Ryomyong Street



The factory turns out various kinds of kimchi such as whole bok choy kimchi, white kimchi, nutritive kimchi for children, *kkaktugi* (cubed radish kimchi), and various pickles.

The inauguration ceremony of Ryomyong Street which was built as a monumental edifice in the era of the Workers' Party of Korea was held on April 13, 2017. It is an ideal street epitomizing the intention of the WPK to provide the people with the highest civilization at the highest level and socialist civilization. The group of cosy multi-storey architectural structures in the direction of the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun reflect the principle of ensuring solemnity and the group of high-rise architectural structures in the direction of the Tower of Immortality at the Ryonghung Crossroads reflect the principle of ensuring symbolism, forming a perfect harmony. As all the apartment houses and public buildings embody the principle of prioritizing convenience and aesthetic beauty and the latest architectural techniques including the electricity-saving technique that relies on natural energy such as sunlight and geothermal energy and the technique of greening the roofs and exteriors are applied, it has assumed a wonderful appearance as an energy-saving street, a green street. The builders completed the construction project, whose scale and workload were far more than two times those of Mirae Scientists Street, within a year while launching the campaign of rehabilitating the flood-hit northern area at the same time. The KPA soldiers and builders completed the framework of 70-storey apartment house within 74 days and tiled its outer walls within 13 days in the spirit of *At a Go*, thus creating in succession the legendary tales of construction in the Mallima era. The whole country rendered material and spiritual support to the construction of the street by producing and supplying equipment and materials on a preferential basis.

In this year the country also built many monumental structures like the Kumsanpho Fish Pickling Factory, Pyongyang Primary School for Orphans and Unit 3 of the Ryesonggang Youth Power Station, and renovated many others including the Korean Revolution Museum and Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory.

On May 30, 2018, the railway between Koam and Tapchon was opened to traffic. The railway was built with an aim to turn the Koam, Tapchon and Chonapho area favourable for developing the fishing industry into a large fishing area. The builders of the railway bridge over the sea, the first of its kind in the country, introduced latest science and technology and many innovative techniques, rendering a great contribution to saving labour and materials and expediting its construction. With Koam and the Songjon peninsula being linked, it has become possible to expedite the construction of the Tapchon fishing area and transport the fish caught in this area. The significance of this project is that the country laid the railway over the sea for the first time in its history.

On September 25, the project of putting iron production on a Juche footing at the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex was finished. This meant establishment of the iron-making process that relies entirely on the domestic technology and raw and other materials.

The workers of the complex set up oxygen-blown furnace and fluidized-bed gas generator, rehabilitated oxygen plant and put iron production on a normal footing, all in a three-dimensional way. Workers from the Chongjin Metal Construction Complex and Equipment Assembly Complex set up the oxygen plant of 15 000m³/h capacity, core of the iron production, ahead of schedule by working in a bold and big way, and executed other difficult tasks for the project.

As the project was finished, an end was put to iron production by relying on the coking coal and the iron- and steel-making industry was definitely put on an upward track in the country.

In this year construction of Unit 5 of the Orangchon Power Station, Unit 5 of the Ryesonggang Youth Power Station and the project of putting production at the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex on a Juche basis were completed, further consolidating the foundations of the industry, and the Pyongyang Taedonggang Fish Restaurant, the corn institute and dry-field crop institute under the Academy of Agricultural Science, the Central Fish Farming Institute under the Academy of Fisheries were either built or renovated.

4. EPOCH-MAKING EVENTS FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY

For the Unity of the Nation

Kim Jong Un in his New Year Address for 2018 set out the tasks for easing the acute military tension between north and south and creating a climate of peace on the Korean peninsula and favourable atmosphere for national reconciliation and reunification, and clarified that for the Winter Olympic Games to be held soon in south Korea the north was willing to dispatch a delegation and take other steps as necessary, and with regard to this matter, the authorities in north and south could meet soon.

All strata in south Korea including the authorities and the political and press circles fully supported his suggestion, highly praising that “it is an audacious proposal for the improvement of inter-Korean relation,” “a great present provided to the nation in the new year” and “an exceptional step beyond expectation.”

Inter-Korean high-level talks took place at Panmunjom on January 9, 2018. Both sides sincerely discussed the matters of participation by north side’s delegation in the 23rd Winter Olympics and Paralympics and improving inter-Korean relations as wished and hoped by the whole nation. The north side agreed to dispatch a high-level delegation, delegation of the National Olympic Committee, sports team, cheering group, art troupe, Taekwon-Do demonstration group and press corps to the Winter Olympics, and the south side to provide necessary conveniences. Both sides also shared their view on defusing the military tension between both sides, and agreed to hold the talks between the military authorities to this end. And they agreed to activate bilateral contacts, visits, exchanges and cooperation in several sectors so as to promote national reconciliation and unity.

The sportspeople from the north fully showed the desire of the Korean nation who love peace and wish national reunification in accordance with the ideals of the Olympics and the nation's expectation through the joint entrance to the venue of the opening ceremony and single-team participation with the southern counterparts in the sporting events.

Seeing the performance given by the north side's art troupe, demonstration of the Taekwon-Do practitioners and the activities of the cheering group during the Olympics, all the Korean people felt once again that the Korean nation, as an indivisible one, should improve north-south relations and bring earlier the day of national reunification.

On February 12, 2018, Kim Jong Un met members of the high-level delegation of the DPRK who had visited south Korea. After being reported about their activities including the participation in the opening ceremony of the 23rd Winter Olympics and visit to the Blue House, he clarified the direction of future improvement and development of inter-Korean relations, and gave the relevant sectors tasks for taking practical measures to this end.

On March 5, Kim Jong Un met in Pyongyang members of a special mission of the south Korean president.

They expressed their gratitude to him for sending a high-level delegation and other large-scale contingents to south Korea on the occasion of the 23rd Winter Olympics so as to help make it successful.

He expressed appreciation in return. He had candid talks with them about the issues arising in active improvement of north-south relations and ensuring peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, and agreed on holding an inter-Korean summit.

The meeting discussed the issues of easing the acute military tension on the Korean peninsula and activating dialogue and contact, and cooperation and exchange in an all-round way between north and south.

On April 1, 2018, Kim Jong Un saw *Spring Comes*, a performance given by a visiting south Korean art troupe at the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre, and congratulated them on their successful performance.

On April 27, 2018, the third inter-Korean summit was held in the south side's area at Panmunjom.

Kim Jong Un exchanged warm greetings with President Moon Jae In of south Korea on the demarcation line at Panmunjom, freely coming and going to north and south hand in hand, and talked with him at the House of Peace of the south side's area at Panmunjom.

At the talks they exchanged their frank and open-hearted opinions on matters of mutual concern including north-south relations, peace and denuclearization on the Korean peninsula.

President Moon Jae In said that the weather was fine as if congratulating that day's meeting, adding that Panmunjom had turned from a symbol of division into that of peace the moment Chairman Kim Jong Un of the State Affairs Commission crossed the demarcation line.

He paid his deep respects to the great resolution of Chairman Kim Jong Un who brought the meaningful meeting and wished that such an open-hearted dialogue would go on so that the trust between them could deepen.

The top leaders achieved a consensus of views on the matters presented at the talks and agreed that they would strive together to create a new history of north-south relations resourcefully and broaden and develop the favourable current for peace, prosperity and reunification of the Korean peninsula by meeting frequently to discuss the pending and nation's important matters sincerely.

Prior to the talks, Kim Jong Un wrote on the visitors' book of the House of Peace in commemoration of the summit meeting:

“A new history starts now. At the starting point of the history, an era of peace.

Kim Jong Un, April 27, 2018.”

Kim Jong Un planted a pine tree, symbolic of “peace and prosperity,” together with President Moon Jae In, at Panmunjom in commemoration of their historic third inter-Korean summit. They jointly mixed soil from Mts Paektu and Halla and poured water from the Taedong and Han rivers,



Chairman Kim Jong Un unveiling a marker after planting a pine tree with President Moon Jae In (April 2018)

prepared by the north and south sides, respectively, over the tree.

The inter-Korean summit adopted the Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

The third inter-Korean summit and the adoption of the Panmunjom Declaration gave a hope for reunification to all the countrymen at home and abroad again.

The south Korean people expressed heart-felt greetings to the leaders of north and south, saying that they shed tears unconsciously while watching the north-south summit on TV, that it was a emotion-filled scene, that the door to peace had opened, that it was a historic moment, and that they were convinced once again the 70 years of territorial division could not separate the soul of the Korean nation.

Several political parties and different civic organizations of south Korea, through statements and talks, stressed that the Panmunjom Declaration cut the major link in the whole chain of division and conflict that had existed over the past 70 years and advanced north-south relations further, expressing their willingness to make proactive efforts for its realization.

As a reflection of this, works of literature singing the praises of the summit and the adoption of the declaration were created in south Korea.

A work, depicting the new year address by Kim Jong Un for 2018 as a reunification rainbow bringing the inter-Korean summit to realization, reads that the oasis-like summit would bring spring rain of reunification that would make all the Korean people masters of reunification and bring up the life of reunification, and a bright world where the children's chattering would echo like a musical work would be brought about. Another work stresses that it is the greatest pride and honour of the Korean nation that the top leaders, hand in hand before the eyes of the world, made a solemn declaration of the start of the new historic north-south relations, and that when the precious fruits are regarded as the nation's supreme task and supported with one mind and one purpose, the future of the Korean nation will be bright and rosy.



Chairman Kim Jong Un exchanging the texts of the Panmunjom Declaration with President Moon Jae In after signing the historic declaration (April 2018)

All the south Korean compatriots highly praised the third inter-Korean summit and the Panmunjom Declaration as a “new history of peace made by the bold decision of Chairman Kim Jong Un” and a “historic event that brought about a great turning point in north-south reconciliation and peace on the Korean peninsula.”

Leaders of many countries welcomed the Panmunjom Declaration, saying that praiseworthy events were taking place, that it was very positive news, and that detailed measures were expected.

The spokesmen of the ministries of foreign affairs of China and France, through their comments, said that the top leaders of north and south issued a joint declaration on easing the military tension, denuclearization and permanent peace on the Korean peninsula, expressing their hope that there would be a durable peace on the Korean peninsula.

Major foreign mass media reported quickly that Chairman Kim Jong Un was the first north leader to visit the south side, and it was an astonishing moment and unprecedented scene. As regards the Panmunjom Declaration, they reported unanimously that on April 27 north and south agreed on the “complete denuclearization,” that north and south are not in war any longer, and that they agreed to put a complete end to the hostilities and reach a peace agreement after the lapse of 65 years.

On his visit to the southern area for the third inter-Korean summit, Kim Jong Un discussed with Moon Jae In the matter of unifying the times of the north and the south.

Accordingly, the Presidium of the Supreme People’s Assembly of the DPRK issued a decree, titled, *On Resetting the Pyongyang Time*, on April 30, 2018.

The fourth north-south summit was held at the Thongil House in the north side area at Panmunjom on May 26, 2018.

At the talks, there was an exchange of views on matters which should be resolved to quickly implement the Panmunjom Declaration agreed upon at the third north-south summit, realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and achieve regional peace, stability and prosperity, and

other problems the north and the south were faced with and the successful holding of the DPRK-US summit.

The fourth north-south summit, which was held 29 days after the third summit, was a historic event that would further promote the development of inter-Korean relations and peace and prosperity on the Korean peninsula through the full implementation of the Panmunjom Declaration.

As agreed at the fourth summit, the suspended inter-Korean high-level talks were resumed and the work for the implementation of the Panmunjom Declaration made progress.

On September 18, Chairman Kim Jong Un warmly greeted at Pyongyang International Airport President Moon Jae In who came to Pyongyang for the historic fifth north-south summit, and on September 19, visited the Paekhwawon State Guesthouse, where President Moon Jae In was staying, and held talks with him.

The talks reaffirmed the will of both sides to implement the Panmunjom Declaration to the letter, formulated important matters to be maintained in implementing the declaration and detailed measures to this end, and agreed on the immediate practical steps to be taken by north and south.

The top leaders of north and south had an in-depth discussion about ways of steadily taking measures, which meet the requirements of the era of reconciliation and cooperation and fully guarantee the current development of relations, on the basis of the precious success and experience they had achieved and gained as they dramatically reversed the inter-Korean relationship of extreme hostility and confrontation and brought about startling changes and fruits by making sincere efforts with the viewpoint and attitude of pooling minds and intentions and respecting and trusting each other.

They had a frank and in-depth discussion on all issues and practical measures for advancing the north-south ties onto a new high stage by thoroughly implementing the Panmunjom Declaration, shared the understanding that the Pyongyang summit would mark an important historic turning point, and signed the September Pyongyang Joint Declaration.



Chairman Kim Jong Un talking with President Moon Jae In (May 2018)



Chairman Kim Jong Un on Mt Paektu with President Moon Jae In (September 2018)

Kim Jong Un said that the declaration reflects the mind of the nation full of a new hope, the spirit of the fellow countrymen burning their hearts with the strong will to reunify their country and the dream of all Koreans which would come true before long. And he expressed his determination to always take the lead in the sacred journey towards peace and prosperity hand in hand with President Moon Jae In.

President Moon Jae In, affirming that inter-Korean relations would make steady progress, expressed his joy over the fact that the seeds of peace and prosperity had been sown on the Korean peninsula last spring and the fruits of peace and prosperity were being borne in Pyongyang this autumn.

On September 20, Kim Jong Un climbed up Mt Paektu, the sacred mountain of the Korean nation, together with Moon Jae In.

Moon Jae In expressed his impression of climbing up the sacred mountain associated with the soul and spirit of the Korean nation and his expectation and conviction that the day's first step would lead to a new era sought by all the fellow countrymen.

The top leaders and their wives had a photo taken to cherish the memory of the historic moment, descended to the shore of Lake Chon and exchanged their impressions of the ascent of the mountain as they strolled.

On Janggun Peak of Mt Paektu and the shores of Lake Chon, the figures accompanying their leaders had a photo session.

Mass media of the north reported the sightseeing by the top leaders as follows:

“It is a historic megaevent in the history of the nation that the top leaders of north and south climbed up Mt Paektu, symbolic of the nation, together and left imprints in the development of inter-Korean relations and in the new era of peace and prosperity.”

The three rounds of inter-Korean summit showed a new appearance of north and south escaping from the old inertia of the past filled with mistrust and argument and solving problems in good faith and cooperation, and constituted a historic point that turned the era of long-standing confrontation and discontinuity into a new era of dialogue and cooperation.

For Further Strengthening of the Traditional Friendship and Cooperation

Kim Jong Un conducted energetic diplomatic activities with the neighbouring countries that are interested in removing the danger of a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula and achieving regional peace and security.

Between March 25 and 28, 2018, he paid an unofficial visit to the People's Republic of China.

At the talks with Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, he exchanged in-depth views on the important issues including the development of DPRK-China friendship and the management of the Korean peninsula situation. He clarified the firm determination of the Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK government to carry forward the precious tradition of DPRK-China friendship, which was provided and strengthened by the leaders of older generations of the two countries and take it to new heights as required by the developing era, and pointed to the need to often meet the Chinese comrades to build up rapport and strengthen strategic communication and strategic and tactical cooperation so as to consolidate the unity and cooperation between the two countries.

Chinese President Xi Jinping warmly welcomed the DPRK leader who visited China as his maiden foreign visit, and emphasized that it is the strategic selection and steadfast will of the Chinese Party and government to attach importance to and carry forward the China-DPRK friendship which was provided and brought up with great care by the leaders of older generations in the course of making contributions to the victorious advance of the socialist cause with the common ideals, faith and deep revolutionary friendship.

After his first China visit, Kim Jong Un paid close attention to developing the DPRK-China friendship as required by the new era.

On April 14, Kim Jong Un met the head of the International Liaison Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China who visited the DPRK leading a Chinese art troupe to participate in the 31st April Spring Friendship Art Festival, and on April 16 saw *Red Women's Company*, a ballet drama given by the Chinese art troupe at the East Pyongyang Grand Theatre.

On April 17, he met the Chinese guest again and had a talk with him. He congratulated the Chinese art troupe on its successful Pyongyang visit amid the special expectation of the two Parties and governments and highly appreciated the efforts made by the Chinese comrades to grace the 31st April Spring Friendship Art Festival.

He shared with the Chinese guest in-depth views on such issues as boosting exchanges and visits in different fields and enhancing the tactical and strategic collaboration between the two Parties.

The visit to Pyongyang by the Chinese art troupe constituted a significant occasion in further building up confidence between the peoples of the two countries, consolidating the cornerstone for the cultural exchanges and developing the relations of the DPRK-China friendship onto a higher stage as required by the new era.

On May 3, 2018, he met the State Councilor and Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, who was on a visit to Pyongyang, and exchanged views on inheriting and boosting the DPRK-China unity and the traditional ties of friendship and cooperation in an all-round way and on other matters of mutual concern such as the development and prospect of the Korean peninsula situation.

Kim Jong Un paid a visit to Dalian of China between May 7 and 8, and had talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

At the talks, they exchanged their assessments of and views on the Korean peninsula situation that is drawing worldwide attention and its development and the political and economic situations of their countries. There was an exchange of in-depth views on promoting the relations of DPRK-China friendship and cooperation more splendidly and solutions to the important matters of common concern.



Chairman Kim Jong Un meeting Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and President of the People's Republic of China (May 2018)



Chairman Kim Jong Un at the banquet hosted by Xi Jinping,
General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist
Party of China and President of the People's Republic
of China (June 2018)

Kim Jong Un paid another visit to China between June 19 and 20.

At the talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping held on June 19, he expressed appreciation to the Chinese Party and government for rendering proactive, sincere support and fine assistance to ensure the successful holding of the DPRK-US summit. He said he is so happy about and holds dear the current reality that the two Parties have promoted strategic collaboration and built up confidence in each other and expressed his resolve and will to continue to seek closer ties of friendship, unity and cooperation between the Parties and peoples of the two countries.

Xi Jinping highly appreciated Chairman Kim Jong Un's role in leading the DPRK-US summit to success and in putting the Korean peninsula situation on the track of dialogue and negotiations, a track of peace and stability, and offered his sincere congratulations to him. He said that China would keep playing a constructive role, expressing full support to the DPRK's stand and decision for the Korean peninsula denuclearization.

Xi Jinping hosted a banquet at the Great Hall of the People on the evening of June 19.

Warmly welcoming Chairman Kim Jong Un's visit to China, Xi Jinping said that it has fully displayed the Chairman's firm will to set great store by the strategic communication between the two Parties and promote the traditional China-DPRK friendship and that it has also demonstrated to the world the invincibility of the ties between the two Parties and countries. He confirmed that China and the DPRK, as close friends and comrades, would learn from each other, consult each other, and work together to shape a brighter, rosier future of the two countries' socialist cause.

Kim Jong Un said he was so glad to meet with Xi Jinping and other dear Chinese comrades at a time when a new historic landscape is on the horizon of the Korean peninsula and beyond in the wake of the successful DPRK-US summit, and expressed appreciation to his Chinese counterpart for his cordial hospitality despite his tight schedule. He said that the DPRK and China are sincerely helping and cooperating with each other while sharing weal and woe like family members, adding that such an image clearly demonstrates to the people at home and abroad that the traditional

relationship between the two Parties and countries is developing into an unprecedentedly special one beyond the traditional ties. He continued that he would value rapport with Xi Jinping more than anything else and exert every possible effort to take the bilateral ties to a new level in a steady manner.

Between January 7 and 10, 2019, Kim Jong Un visited China at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Warmly welcoming Kim Jong Un who started his external activity in the new year by visiting China, Xi Jinping said that the current visit would mark a specially important occasion in successfully guiding the development of China-DPRK relations.

The top leaders of the two Parties and countries had an in-depth and candid exchange of views over the issue of further boosting the friendship, unity, exchanges and cooperation between the two Parties and the two countries as required by the times and over the international and regional issues of common concern, especially the joint study and coordination of the Korean peninsula situation management and the process of negotiations for denuclearization. And they expressed mutual understanding, support and solidarity for the independent stand maintained by the Parties and governments of the two countries in their external relations.

Xi Jinping said that last year the Korean leader put forward a new strategic line of concentrating all efforts on socialist economic construction and took several measures by making a courageous and wise decision to show the international community the hope and expectation of the peace-loving DPRK that aspires after development, thereby increasing international influence and winning great support, understanding and warm welcome from the whole world. This proves that Kim Jong Un's strategic decision was correct and was in the Korean people's interests and in line with the trend of the times, he continued. He highly praised the Korean Party and government for achieving wonderful successes at home and abroad and said that he, as a comrade and friend, is convinced that the WPK would achieve greater and fresh successes in accomplishing the socialist cause under the leadership of Kim Jong Un and that he sincerely wishes for them.

Both sides had also in-depth exchanges of views on international and regional issues of common concern.

Kim Jong Un's visit to China made at the outset of the new year constituted another event in the history of friendship and unity between the two Parties and the two countries and a historic occasion of great significance in boosting the strategic communication between the leaderships of the DPRK and China and defending the peace and stability of the Korean peninsula.

Between June 20 and 21, 2019, Xi Jinping, President of the People's Republic of China, paid a visit to the DPRK.

Talks were held between the top leaders of the two countries.

The two leaders emphasized that it is the consistent stand of the Parties and governments of their countries to develop the traditional friendship and cooperative relations as required by the times and it fully conforms to the aspirations and fundamental interests of the peoples of the two countries. They proposed good plans for marking the 70th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations more significantly and exchanged views on them.

The top leaders made an extensive exchange of views on important international and regional issues including the Korean peninsula situation, and appreciated that to further develop in depth the ties between the two Parties and countries conforms to the common interests of the countries and facilitates regional peace, stability and development now that serious and complicated changes are taking place in the international and regional situations.

Xi Jinping's DPRK visit demonstrated the steadfast will of the top leaders of the two countries to work together on the road of struggle for independence and justice by carrying forward the wonderful and great history and tradition of friendship between their countries.

In January 2019 a DPRK friendship art delegation visited China, building up the ties of friendship and unity between the two Parties and the two countries.

Its visit fully demonstrated the immutability and invincibility of the



Chairman Kim Jong Un talking with Xi Jinping,
General Secretary of the Central Committee
of the Communist Party of China and President
of the People's Republic of China,
while taking a stroll (June 2018)

DPRK-China friendship that was developing in the great new history, a new era of the DPRK-China relations, and constituted a meaningful prelude to marking with splendour the 70th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations.

Xi Jinping saw its performance at the State Grand Theatre on January 27.

Prior to the performance, Xi Jinping met leading members of the delegation and had a talk with them. He said that cultural and art exchanges had been a special and traditional component of the DPRK-China relations, expressing his hope that both sides would contribute to promoting the construction of socialist culture by making concerted efforts.

After the performance was over, Xi Jinping and his wife, Peng Liyuan, presented a basket of flowers to the performers, congratulating their successful performance, and had a photo taken with them.

The DPRK friendship art delegation's tour of China, the first friendship mission in 2019 to implement the important agreements made by the top leaders of the two Parties and countries, added a brilliant chapter to the DPRK-China history of cultural and art exchange that entered a new period of efflorescence; it was significant in that it further consolidated and developed the blood-sealed ties of the peoples of the two countries as required by the great new era.

On January 31, Kim Jong Un met members of the delegation on their return, expressing his satisfaction with the fact that they gave good performances to the delight of the Chinese people, and gave thanks to all the members of the delegation who made a positive contribution to promoting and further consolidating the emotional and cultural bonds between the peoples of the two countries.

On May 31, 2018, Kim Jong Un met Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov on his visit to Pyongyang and had talks with him.

They exchanged the intentions and views of the top leaderships of the DPRK and Russia on the development of the situation on the Korean peninsula and beyond that is in the limelight worldwide, and discussed how to bolster up bilateral relations of political and economic cooperation

and promote the close ties.

Lavrov highly appreciated the fact that the DPRK has properly steered relations with south Korea and the US and adopted substantial measures to take the peninsula and regional situations to a phase of stability. Russia fully supports the DPRK's decision and stand related to the upcoming DPRK-US summit and the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and hopes for good results in this regard, he said.

At the talks, both sides agreed to promote high-level visits, boost exchanges and cooperation in different fields and hold a summit meeting of the two countries this year marking the 70th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic relations, in a bid to further develop the strategic, traditional relationship in the interests of both sides and in line with the requirements of the new era.

Talking with him, Kim Jong Un confirmed the stand and view of the Russian leadership and expressed his satisfaction with the possibility of establishing the relations of a new political and strategic mutual confidence.

On April 25, 2019, Kim Jong Un met with Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, President of the Russian Federation, in Vladivostok.

At the one-on-one talks, they informed each other of the situations in their countries and agreed on the concrete ways and measures for further promoting mutual understanding and trust, relationship and cooperation and propel the progress of the bilateral friendship in the new century. They also had a serious discussion of issues on immediate cooperation and reached a satisfactory consensus of opinion.

At the talks, President Putin expressed deep thanks once again to his Korean counterpart for the approval to his invitation and visit to Russia, and clarified the firm stand and will of the Russian government to carry forward and develop the history and tradition of the Russo-DPRK relationship.

Chairman Kim Jong Un expressed his determination to usher in a new heyday of development of bilateral relations true to the intentions of the preceding leaders, saying that it is due responsibility he has assumed before the times and history to put the DPRK-Russia relations on a higher stage



Chairman Kim Jong Un meeting with Vladimir Putin,
President of the Russian Federation (April 2019)

in line with the requirements of the new century by carrying forward the precious tradition.

The top leaders of the two countries had a discussion on promoting high-level visits including the summit meeting and contact and developing cooperation, exchanges and collaboration between the governments, parliaments, regions and organizations of the two countries in various forms.

Kim Jong Un's goodwill visit to the Russian Federation was etched in the history of DPRK-Russia friendship and solidarity as a landmark event that demonstrated the solidness of the long-standing and close DPRK-Russia friendship, which continued through centuries and generations, and brought about a radical turn in further developing the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in line with the requirements of the new era under the new situation.

Kim Jong Un's diplomatic activities with China and Russia served as a dynamic force for further advancing the DPRK-China and DPRK-Russia friendship, and made a positive contribution to ensuring closer strategic cooperation between the DPRK and China and the DPRK and Russia and durable and lasting peace and security on the Korean peninsula and in the region.

On November 4, 2018, Kim Jong Un warmly greeted Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, President of the Council of State and President of the Council of Ministers of Cuba, on a visit to the DPRK at Pyongyang International Airport.

That day they had one-on-one talks.

Warmly welcoming the Cuban leader's DPRK visit, Kim Jong Un said that the current visit would offer an occasion for demonstrating the invincibility of the traditional fellowship, trust, friendship and solidarity between the peoples of the two countries and serve as a manifestation of support and solidarity to the Korean people's just cause.

The two leaders informed each other of the achievements and experiences gained in Party and state activities in their countries for building socialism to suit the specific conditions of each country, and expressed full support and solidarity with each other and discussed the



Chairman Kim Jong Un, together with Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez, President of the Council of State and President of the Council of Ministers of Cuba, waving back to the welcoming Pyongyang citizens (November 2018)

issue of further expanding and developing cooperation and exchanges in various fields to meet the common interests.

There was an in-depth exchange of views on the crucial issues of common concern of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Communist Party of Cuba and on the international situation, and a consensus of views was reached on all issues at the talks.

Kim Jong Un and Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez highly appreciated that the great leaders of the two countries provided and developed the framework of the special friendship based on the revolutionary principle, comradely obligation and socialist principle and that the history and tradition of bilateral friendship have invariably been carried forward and further developed under the new situation and environment thanks to the joint efforts of both sides. They expressed firm stand and will of the Parties and governments of the two countries to further expand and strengthen the strategic and comradely bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two Parties and the two countries in line with the present requirements of the new era in the future, too.

In the speech at the banquet held on the evening of November 4, Kim Jong Un said that the meeting with Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez marked a watershed in demonstrating the will to eternally carry forward bilateral friendship.

Saying that the two countries are in the same trench in the struggle for defending sovereignty and dignity of their countries and safeguarding international justice, he expressed invariable support and encouragement to the Cuban people building a powerful and prosperous country.

He expressed thanks to the friendly Cuban Party, government and people for extending absolute support and encouragement to the DPRK's efforts for the building of socialism and the independent reunification of Korea, and affirmed his will to consolidate and develop the strategic and comradely friendship between the DPRK and Cuba.

Speaking in return, Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez emphasized that his visit to the DPRK at a historic period of inheriting the cause of the revolution in Cuba is a clear manifestation of the firm stand of the Cuban



Chairman Kim Jong Un talking with Miguel Mario
Diaz-Canel Bermudez, President of the Council
of State and President of the Council
of Ministers of Cuba (November 2018)

Party and government to invariably develop the ties with the DPRK.

He expressed his heartfelt thanks to the Korean people for warmly greeting them with the feeling of friendship toward their Cuban counterparts, giving a wonderful welcome performance and hosting a grand banquet. He also thanked the Korean Party, government and people for fully supporting and encouraging the just cause of his people.

The Cuban leader's visit to the DPRK marked a watershed in invariably carrying forward and developing century by century and generation after generation the bonds of traditional fraternal relations of friendship and cooperation forged between the DPRK and Cuba and firmly consolidating militant unity of the two Parties and the peoples of the two countries fighting for the common cause holding aloft the banner of socialism.

On March 1, 2019, Kim Jong Un made an official goodwill visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

He met Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam and President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, at the Presidential Palace and had talks.

At the talks he said that it is the consistent stand of the Korean Party and state to carry on generation after generation the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and the two Parties forged at the cost of blood true to the intentions of the preceding leaders, adding that Party- and government-level exchange of visits should be promoted vigorously and cooperation and exchanges normalized and developed onto a new higher level in all fields of the economy, science and technology, national defence, sports, culture, the arts and mass media.

He expressed his thanks to the Vietnamese Party and government for rendering positive and sincere support and wonderful assistance for the successful holding of the second DPRK-US summit.

Nguyen Phu Trong said that the friendly and cooperative relations between Vietnam and the DPRK are traditional ones provided and cultivated by President Ho Chi Minh and President Kim Il Sung and the Vietnamese Party, government and people always remember and are thankful to the DPRK for having rendered great support to the struggle



Chairman Kim Jong Un meeting with Nguyen Phu Trong,
General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist
Party of Vietnam and President of the Socialist
Republic of Vietnam (March 2019)

for independence of Vietnam and its national liberation. He added that it is the steadfast stand of the Vietnamese Party and government to always attach importance to the bilateral ties and further develop the relationship between the two Parties and the two countries.

He continued that the choice of Hanoi as the venue of the second DPRK-US summit showed the trust between the two countries.

In the afternoon Kim Jong Un met with Nguyen Xuan Phuc, prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, chairwoman of the Vietnamese National Assembly.

Nguyen Phu Trong arranged a grand banquet at the International Convention Centre that day.

He said in his congratulatory speech that the traditional friendship between the Parties, states and peoples of the two countries that President Ho Chi Minh and President Kim Il Sung had built and cultivated with much effort has been inherited and developed uninterruptedly in the face of enormous challenges and expressed his conviction that Chairman Kim Jong Un's current visit ahead of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries would greatly contribute to promoting the interests of the peoples of the two countries and global peace, stability, cooperation and development.

Kim Jong Un said in his speech that through his first visit to Vietnam and the meaningful meeting with the General Secretary he was convinced of the vitality and rosy future of the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two Parties and the peoples of the two countries, which had been forged and consolidated by Comrade Kim Il Sung and Comrade Ho Chi Minh, and expressed his determination to firmly defend the bilateral friendship, a precious legacy left by the preceding leaders of the two countries, and add eternal brilliance to it generation after generation.

Kim Jong Un's visit to Vietnam added another chapter in the history of friendship between the two countries as an epochal event of great significance in fully demonstrating the bonds of traditional friendship and cooperation between the two Parties and the two countries which had been forged at the cost of blood through the struggle to realize common goals

and ideals upholding the banner of socialism and consolidated overcoming every manner of trials and invariably inheriting and developing them generation after generation.



Sunshine of Spring Days given in the DPRK by a national art troupe of Vietnam (April 2019)

Epochal Meeting in the Limelight of the International Community

The historic first-ever DPRK-US summit was held on June 12, 2018.

Chairman Kim Jong Un met with US President Donald J. Trump at 9 a.m. and had one-on-one talks with him.

The two leaders shared views on the pending issues of vital significance in ending the decades-long hostile relationship between the DPRK and the US and ensuring peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

At the following enlarged talks, there was a comprehensive and in-depth discussion on the issues of establishing a new DPRK-US relationship and building a durable and lasting peace mechanism on the Korean peninsula.

President Trump was hopeful that the summit would lead to the improvement of bilateral relations, and attributed the current atmosphere of peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and beyond, which was teetering on the brink of military conflict even some months ago, to the proactive peace initiatives the DPRK leader has taken from the outset of the year.

He expressed his willingness to suspend the US-south Korea joint military exercises, which the DPRK's side regards as provocative, while the dialogue of goodwill is underway between the two countries, and offer a safety guarantee on the DPRK, and lift the sanctions against the DPRK in keeping with the improvement of bilateral relations through dialogue and negotiations.

The two leaders agreed that it is important to observe the principle of taking step-by-step and simultaneous actions in the course of the effort to ensure peace, stability and denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

After the talks, the two leaders signed a joint statement of the historic Singapore summit.

The joint statement reflected issues for the both sides to establish new DPRK-US relations in accordance with the desire of the peoples of the two



Chairman Kim Jong Un signing a joint statement
with US President Donald Trump after meeting
with him (June 2018)

countries for peace and prosperity, to make a joint effort to build a durable and lasting peace regime on the Korean peninsula, the DPRK, reaffirming the April 27, 2018 Panmunjom Declaration, to work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and both sides to recover remains of POW/MIA, including the immediate repatriating of those already identified. And also it emphasized that the two leaders committed to implement the stipulations in this joint statement fully and expeditiously and to cooperate for the development of new DPRK-US relations and for the peace, prosperity and security of the Korean peninsula and of the world.

Commenting that the DPRK-US summit in Singapore was “a summit to be carried on history books and textbooks of world history,” the world media commented that it was a great event of vital significance in further promoting the historic trend for reconciliation and peace, stability and prosperity on the Korean peninsula and in the region and in radically changing the relations between the two countries, which had been most hostile to each other, as required by the developing times.

They lavished praise on Kim Jong Un, writing: Chairman Kim Jong Un left a strong impression on the whole world during his stay in Singapore and has emerged as a “great statesman in the modern history of diplomacy,” a “rational and seasoned leader with whom leaders of other countries of the world can have candid dialogues,” a “most influential leader in the world political circles in 2018,” a “politician who enjoys world attention more than others in the whole world” and a “powerful leader who is putting an end to the 70-year-long hostile relations between the DPRK and the US and opening a new peace era of the Korean peninsula” by successfully holding a summit with the US President in the wake of two rounds of meeting with the Chinese leader in less than two months.

Some media reported: As Kim Jong Un, together with Trump, took the first great step in the journey for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and building of a peace regime on it, a new heyday was opened in the DPRK-US relations that had been filled with mistrust and antagonism for over 70 years since the division of Korea, and the history of the Korean

peninsula and the international relations in Northeast Asia would be changed; Kim Jong Un would surely break the last link in whole chain of the cold war remaining on the globe; the hostile relationship between the DPRK and the US, the longest of its kind in the world, would not melt overnight like snow, but the day would certainly come when the DPRK-Japan relations would be normalized in the wake of the improvement of the DPRK-US relations, the armistice system on the Korean peninsula would collapse and an era of peace would prevail in Northeast Asia.

On February 27, 2019, Chairman Kim Jong Un again met Donald Trump, President of the United States, in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The two leaders had a one-on-one pleasant chat to have an open-hearted and candid dialogue.

On February 28, they held one-on-one talks and enlarged talks with their aides attending.

They agreed to keep in close touch with each other for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the radical development of bilateral relations in the future, too, and to continue productive dialogues for settling the issues discussed at the Hanoi summit.

The second DPRK-US summit held amid great interest and expectations of the whole world constituted a significant occasion for developing the bilateral relations in the interests of the peoples of the two countries and contributing to peace and stability of the Korean peninsula, the region and the rest of the world.

In June 2019, Chairman Kim Jong Un received a personal message from the US President Donald Trump. After reading the message, he expressed his satisfaction saying that it contained good suggestions. He appreciated President Trump's politically judging prowess and unusual courage, adding he would weigh the appealing contents.

On June 30, 2019, Chairman Kim Jong Un had a historic meeting with US President Donald Trump at Panmunjom.

He had accepted the proposal of President Trump for meeting him in the demilitarized zone during his visit to south Korea, and went to the



Chairman Kim Jong Un holding a one-on-one pleasant chat
and having a dinner with US President Donald Trump
after meeting him again in Hanoi, Vietnam (February 2019)



Chairman Kim Jong Un having a historic meeting with US President Donald Trump at Panmunjom (June 2019)

southern area of Panmunjom.

In 66 years after the conclusion of the Korean Armistice Agreement in 1953, an amazing event took place—the top leaders of the DPRK and the US held each other's hand and had a historic handshake at Panmunjom, symbolic of division of the Korean peninsula.

They recorded a historic moment, when a sitting US President crosses the Military Demarcation Line, goes as far as the Panmun House in the northern area of Panmunjom, setting foot on the territory of north Korea for the first time in history.

At the one-on-one chat and talks they explained the ways to ease tension on the Korean peninsula and put an end to the unsavoury relations between the two countries and bring about a dramatic turn in it and the issues of each other's concern and interest. They expressed complete understanding and empathy with them.

Chairman Kim Jong Un said that thanks to the good intimacy with President Trump such a dramatic meeting could be arranged only in one day, adding that the rapport between him and President Trump will continue to produce unforeseeable fine results and act as a mysterious force of overcoming difficulties and obstacles.

The bold decision of the leaders of the two countries, who achieved an epoch-making historic meeting by flinging wide open the door of division at Panmunjom that has long been tightly closed as the symbol of confrontation and feud, was a surprising event that built up confidence between the two countries which had been at feud and hostile to each other with deep-rooted antagonism.

With several rounds of inter-Korean summit, the DPRK-China summit and the DPRK-US summit as an occasion, a new trend towards détente and peace has been created on the Korean peninsula and in the region. Witnessing the historic events that put an end to the long-standing mistrust and hostile relations and heralded a fresh start, the world media praised the DPRK that is leading the international political situation as a political and military power with immense influence which no one can ignore.

CONCLUSION

Time changes and develops ceaselessly, and new theoretical and practical problems arise in the revolution and construction.

The DPRK is making a leap towards a higher stage amid an arduous yet uninterrupted struggle.

It has advanced a line of concentrating all efforts on socialist economic construction and is directing all its efforts to the implementation of the line. Some people witnessing the reality of the DPRK that undergoes changes morning and evening, and today and tomorrow may find it hard to understand it. However, whoever says what, it will follow the road it chose, the road of independence, and charge ahead toward final victory holding aloft the banner of Juche it raised.

It is quite natural that the mass media of the world praise Kim Jong Un as a “most outstanding political leader in modern times” and a “seasoned politician who leads the international political situation with confidence,” referring to the reality in which epoch-making events beyond imagination are taking place.

KOREA IN KIM JONG UN'S ERA

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